



# *The Georgia Senate This Week*

*Senate Information Office ♦ 201 Legislative Office Building ♦ Atlanta, Georgia ♦ 404.656.0028*

## Cagle sworn in as first GOP Lt. Governor, vows bipartisanship

*F*ormer Senator **Casey Cagle** became Georgia's first Republican lieutenant governor on Monday when he was sworn into office at Phillips Arena in Atlanta. Vowing to "faithfully execute the office of Lt. Governor of the State of Georgia," he promised to "preserve, protect and defend the Constitution thereof and the Constitution of the United States."

On Tuesday, the first day he presided over the Senate as President of the Upper Chamber, Lt.



Gov. **Cagle** told his former colleagues: "You have really honored me by allowing me this opportunity to serve as your lieutenant governor – the president of this body . . . I hope you will join me in working together to ensure that we put Georgia first and [political] party becomes irrelevant, because the issues before us are what is important."

"I want to set a standard by which we bring the Senate back to a place that it once was – where we respect one another and we respect the body. It is a great, great honor to serve in this Chamber and I want you to take the business of this Senate very seriously – and I know you will."

"Does this mean we are always going to agree? No. Does this mean that the minority is going to control the majority? Not necessarily. But having a seat at the table, having a bite of the apple is what is important and what makes this process beautiful as we work as a deliberative body."

"Life is about service – service to others. When we think about the impact of what we are doing in this body, and how it is going to impact future generations we realize what an awesome responsibility we have. This is a responsibility that we can be part of and I want you to look to the future. I know you will join me in creating something that we can be proud of at the end of the day. We can say we did our best, we gave it our all and we had Georgia's best interest at heart through every decision we made."

Following Lt. Gov. **Cagle**'s remarks, Senate Minority Leader **Robert Brown** of the 26<sup>th</sup> took the well and commended the new Senate President for his remarks and his promise of bipartisanship.

"I want to applaud you and extend my hand to you as a working partner in trying to make this body work and function in a unified way," Sen. **Brown** said in a point of personal privilege. "I think your ideals are noble . . . there are times when we are going to have partisan differences, but we will always try to keep our discussion and our debate on a high, civil plane." SPO

## *The Senate welcomes new members*

The Senate welcomed six new members on Monday: **Bill Cowsert** of the 46<sup>th</sup>, **Gail Davenport** of the 44<sup>th</sup>, **Lee Hawkins** of the 49<sup>th</sup>, **Jack Murphy** of the 27<sup>th</sup>, **Nan Orrock** of the 36<sup>th</sup> and **Ron Ramsey** of the 43<sup>rd</sup>. SPO

## Johnson re-elected 'the Senator's Senator'



enate President Pro Tempore **Eric Johnson** of the 1<sup>st</sup> was re-elected to his third consecutive term as Senate President Pro Tempore Monday shortly after the members of the Senate were sworn in on the first day of the 2007 Session of the Georgia General Assembly.

"I love this Senate, this chamber and its tradition," Sen. **Johnson** told his colleagues in a speech shortly after his election. "With a unified cooperative Senate, we truly have become the Upper Chamber because we have conducted ourselves with integrity and we have legislated well."

Sen. **Johnson** was first elected Senate President Pro Tem in 2003 – commonly known as the Senator's Senator – shortly after Republicans took control of the Senate following the 2002 election cycle. He is the 66<sup>th</sup> Senate President Pro Tem in the history of Georgia and only the third to serve more than two terms.

Reflecting back on his years as president pro tem, Sen. **Johnson** said, "In 2003, we were witness to one of the great miracles of the American political system – the peaceful transfer of power. After 130 years there was a new majority party in charge of the Governor's office and the Senate. Add to that a divided government with the House controlled by the opposition party and a recession.

"We were going to have to work together to assure that Georgians were taken care of and the critical issues dealt with."

With a Senate president a member of the minority party, the rules of the Senate were rewritten, and Sen. **Johnson** became the defacto president of the Senate – deciding through

a committee on assignments, committee appointments, staff hires, etc. This year, following the election of Republican **Casey Cagle** as Lt. governor, many of the powers of the Senate will be restored to the new Senate president.

“When I decided to run [for office] again last year, I was determined that I could help transfer the powers back to the lieutenant governor and return the Senate to its traditionally designed governance structure and provide a bridge between the legislative branch that sits in this chamber and the executive branch that presides over it.

“I remain dedicated to those goals and appreciate the opportunity to serve this state and the Senate in some small way.”

Sen. **Johnson** has served in the Senate since 1995, and previously served as Senate Minority Leader.

“The names on the desks change every two years. The titles you bear change. The person with the gavel changes. But our founding fathers blessed us with a system that assures continuity of service. So – our brief experiment with a temporary transfer of powers has come to an end.

“With God’s blessings and the good will of his colleagues, **Casey Cagle** will continue the strong tradition of Senate leadership using a firm hand, a kind heart and a clear vision.

“Because it is here – under this gold dome – that we go to work for Georgia. And it is here that we are tasked with preparing a better future for the next generation.”

Sen. **Johnson** will serve as Senate President Pro Tem for the next two years. SPO

~~~~~

Ewing re-elected Secretary of the Senate,  
Wallace named sergeant-at-arms


**Robert F. “Bob” Ewing** was re-elected Secretary of the Senate on Monday by the members of the Senate and long-time door-keeper **Lorenzo Wallace** was unanimously elected sergeant-at-arms on the first day of the 2007 Legislative Session. **Wallace** replaces **Matthew “Coach” Hill** who retired from his position at the end of the 2006 Session. SPO

~~~~~

*Get well soon Sen. Butler*

Sen. **Gloria Butler** of the 55<sup>th</sup> is ill. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers until she recovers and is back with us. SPO

# Governor Perdue presents budget for “State of the Future”

ith the state on a firm foundation, Governor **Sonny Perdue** delivered his annual State of the State Address before a joint session of the Georgia General Assembly on Wednesday. The Governor submitted his amended FY07 and FY08 budget recommendations, which are focused on education, land conservation, economic development, tax relief for seniors and healthcare.

“We have made great progress,” said Governor **Sonny Perdue**. “We have laid the foundation and have begun moving Georgia from a good state to a great state, a state of the future.”

## Education

Building a state of the future means building on Georgia’s education success from the Governor’s first term.

“I’m here to tell you again that my priorities have not changed,” Governor **Perdue** said. “Education is the single most important factor in the future prosperity of our state.”

The Governor reiterated his plan for improving Georgia’s graduation rate by adding graduation coaches to Georgia’s middle schools. He noted that while Georgia’s graduation rate has risen 7.5 percent over the last four years, there is still much work to do. The high school graduation coaches have identified 42,000 students who are not on track to graduate. In addition, there are 25,655 over-age 9<sup>th</sup> graders, and over 2,000 students who dropped out before they made it to 9<sup>th</sup> grade. At a cost of \$21.3 million, middle school graduation coaches will help meet the needs of these students.

The Governor’s education requests also include:

- \$152.5 million in funds for the QBE formula to recognize 2.65 percent enrollment growth;
- \$32.7 million in additional Equalization Grant funding in FY 2008 to recognize the gap in wealth between school systems;
- \$417 million in bonds for capital outlay construction in local school systems;
- The amended FY 2007 budget also includes \$164 million to provide a mid-term adjustment for growth of 2.5 percent;
- Funding of \$178 million to keep Georgia teachers the highest paid in the Southeast; the budget includes a 3 percent pay increase for teachers effective September 1, 2007; along with the 3 percent step increase at a cost of \$89.5 million, almost half of Georgia teachers will receive a 6 percent raise;
- Funding of \$750,000 to make online tutoring accessible to all students;
- Expanding TEG grants by \$100 per student at a cost of \$3.2 million;
- \$2.5 million to pay for college entrance exams for students who undertake a series of preparatory steps;
- \$3.5 million to expand students’ access to Advanced Placement (AP) courses and the Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test (PSAT)
- Continue giving \$100 gift cards to classroom teachers;
- Extending the gift card program by giving one card to every school media center;
- \$80 million to fully fund enrollment increases at Georgia colleges and universities;

- \$228 million in bond for capital construction at higher education institutions;
- \$10 million to fund life sciences research through the Georgia Research Alliance.

## Land Conservation

Fiscal Year 2008 will build on Governor **Perdue's** *Land Conversation Act* by putting an additional \$50 million toward purchasing undeveloped land for protection, such as Paulding Forest. The Governor's budget also will include a \$19 million investment for *Go Fish Georgia*, which will create world-class resources for fishing and boating enthusiasts. It includes new ramps along a bass trail that will include 15 sites on Georgia's major rivers and reservoirs capable of hosting large bass tournaments.

"Georgia has some of the most beautiful natural resources in the nation," Senate Natural Resources and the Environment Committee Chairman **Ross Tolleson** of the 20<sup>th</sup> said following Governor **Perdue's** State of the State speech at the State Capitol. "It is important that we preserve our natural beauty and enhance it, so that we can share it with the rest of the world.

"Bringing fishing tournaments to our state is a great way to let the rest of the world see what Georgia has to offer – and it also will be a great economic boon to our state. Some of these tournaments can bring as much as \$20 million each to our state through *Go Fish Georgia*. We have the resources to compete with our neighboring states, and we need to do just that.

"We have rivers, streams and reservoirs all over our state and bringing people here to fish in them will benefit all of our citizens – those who fish in them and those who will reap the benefits from the dollars that will be spent by non-Georgians in our beautiful state. I say it's a win-win for everyone."

The Governor's budget also includes funding to promote and protect the state's historical resources. The year 2011 will mark the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Civil War and the Governor's budget will make sure that Georgia is ready for the influx of cultural tourists by recommending that the state invest \$5 million to work with our surrounding states in developing a comprehensive tourism plan, and to revitalize and restore historic sites, such as the Resaca Battlefield Park in Gordon County.

## Economic Development

Since 2002, Georgia has created over 250,000 new jobs and Governor **Perdue's** budget includes a plan to continue that success.

"Our world is, indeed, getting flatter," Governor **Perdue** said. "The rapid expansion of globalization is a sterling opportunity for Georgia to gain new business."

In the last year, Georgia made over 31 mission trips to 23 countries. The state currently has 10 international offices, and is opening a new office in China. The Governor's budget recommends that the state ramp up its investment in international marketing by 135 percent and invest an additional \$5.1 million in opening Georgia's doors to the world.

The Governor also recognizes that tax relief helps create economic opportunity. His proposal to eliminate the state income tax on retirement income for seniors will attract retirees to the

state and allow them to better cover the cost of necessary expenses such as prescription drugs, or spend more time with their grandchildren. The Governor also proposed legislation to exempt material and equipment used to build bio-fuel facilities from state taxes to help Georgia become a national leader in alternative fuel development.

The budget proposal funds the state's Kia commitment with \$40.5 million for the West Point Development Authority to be used on expenses related to the company's new assembly plant in West Georgia. The Governor also recognizes the hard work of state employees in keeping our state prosperous by recommending a three-percent pay increase effective January 1, 2008.

## Healthcare

Governor **Perdue**'s budget also focuses on increased healthcare transparency, zeroing in on rural healthcare. The Governor introduced the *Rural Health Access Project* to promote health care as a strategic industry in rural Georgia. The Project is designed to "increase access to primary care, create stable networks and use technology to lower costs and improve outcomes."

The Governor's budget recognizes the enormous toll that traffic accidents and trauma care exact on Georgia and its citizens. Traffic accidents not only cost billions of dollars every year, but also the lives of over 1,700 people just in Georgia. Last year, the Senate and House joined together to study Georgia's lack of sufficient trauma centers around the state.

"Car accidents cause more trauma than any other source," said Governor **Perdue**. "Drivers who travel recklessly at high speeds will be held accountable in Georgia. We will make those drivers pay for a statewide trauma network. This will allow us to not only improve Georgia's trauma care system, but also to reduce the actions that cause pain for so many Georgia families."

Sen. **Cecil Staton** of the 18<sup>th</sup>, who co-chaired the Comprehensive State Trauma Services Joint Study Committee said: "The bill to fully fund trauma centers for a state of our size is going to be between \$80 and \$85 million each year. Obviously, one viable option is to place the cost of these trauma centers on those who engage in reckless behavior – including those who disobey the speed limit laws in this state and those who drive under the influence of drugs and alcohol on our interstates and highways.

"Over the course of the next year, we will study ways to fund the necessary services to keep our citizens alive following a life-threatening accident, and Governor **Perdue**'s idea to force those people who endanger the lives of our loved ones to pay should be at the top of the list.

"We will continue to look at all of our options, which include a surcharge on cell phones and/or motor vehicle registrations."

Medical access continues to be a concern for many Georgians and the cost of state-provided coverage is a growing component of the state budget. The Governor's budget includes \$176 million to fund health insurance costs for state employees and includes \$100 million to begin to meet the costs of Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) as required by new national accounting standards.

The budget also keeps Georgia healthy by:

- Continuing to partner with the federal government on programs such as Medicaid and PeachCare;
- Providing \$1 million to implement the Health Information Technology pilot program;
- Committing \$1.5 million to increase access to primary healthcare facilities throughout the state;
- Funding \$4.8 million to develop a real-time information system to improve cancer screening, diagnosis and treatment; making Georgia a national leader in cancer information technology;
- Funding almost \$16 million to fully fund the purchase of antiviral medications to treat a pandemic flu;
- Funding \$9 million to provide additional funds for the operating expenses of state hospitals.

## Law Enforcement

The Governor continues to be committed to keeping Georgia safe. The budget includes more than \$15 million for more than 1,200 new prison beds and over \$24 million in bonds to construct new correctional facilities, adding over 1,000 beds in future years. Also included in the budget is \$1.4 million to add 15 new GBI Meth Force agents, over \$1 million for the Child Safety Initiative (anti-online predator program), and over \$1 million for Georgia Secure ID. Governor **Perdue** presented the General Assembly with a disciplined budget focused on building an even better state for future generations of Georgians.

“We can deliver them a state of the future,” said Governor **Perdue**. “A state that leads in protecting its resources, in growing jobs, in educating its children and in providing for the health of its people.” SPO

*An electronic version of the Governor’s Amended FY07 and FY08 budgets are available at [www.opb.state.ga.us](http://www.opb.state.ga.us). The link will be on the top right just under the Budget Links heading.*



# Senate Committees

## Agriculture and Consumer Affairs

**John Bulloch** of the 11<sup>th</sup> – Chairman  
**Ralph Hudgens** of the 47<sup>th</sup> – Vice Chair  
**Lee Hawkins** of the 49<sup>th</sup> – Secretary  
Greg Goggans of the 7<sup>th</sup>  
Nan Orrock of the 36<sup>th</sup>  
J. B. Powell of the 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Ed Tarver of the 22<sup>nd</sup>

## Appropriations

**Jack Hill** of the 4<sup>th</sup> – Chairman  
**Greg Goggans** of the 7<sup>th</sup> – Vice Chairman  
**Tim Golden** of the 8<sup>th</sup> – Secretary  
Don Balfour of the 9<sup>th</sup>  
John Bulloch of the 11<sup>th</sup>  
Bill Cowsert of the 46<sup>th</sup>  
Vincent Fort of the 39<sup>th</sup>  
Johnny Grant of the 25<sup>th</sup>  
Bill Hamrick of the 30<sup>th</sup>  
Seth Harp of the 29<sup>th</sup>  
Bill Heath of the 31<sup>st</sup>  
Steven Henson of the 41<sup>st</sup>  
George Hooks of the 14<sup>th</sup>  
Eric Johnson of the 1<sup>st</sup>  
Michael Meyer von Bremen of the 12<sup>th</sup>  
Dan Moody of the 56<sup>th</sup>  
Jeff Mullis of the 53<sup>rd</sup>  
Jack Murphy of the 27<sup>th</sup>  
Chip Pearson of the 51<sup>st</sup>  
Nancy Schaefer of the 50<sup>th</sup>  
Mitch Seabaugh of the 28<sup>th</sup>  
Valencia Seay of the 34<sup>th</sup>  
Preston W. Smith of the 52<sup>nd</sup>  
Cecil Staton of the 18<sup>th</sup> – Ex-Officio  
Horacena Tate of the 38<sup>th</sup>  
Don Thomas of the 54<sup>th</sup>  
Curt Thompson of the 5<sup>th</sup>  
Ross Tolleson of the 20<sup>th</sup>  
Renee S. Unterman of the 45<sup>th</sup>  
John J. Wiles of the 37<sup>th</sup> – Ex-officio  
Tommie Williams of the 19<sup>th</sup>

## Banking & Financial Institutions

**Bill Hamrick** of the 30<sup>th</sup> – Chairman  
**Ralph Hudgens** of the 47<sup>th</sup> – Vice Chair  
**Ed Tarver** of the 22<sup>nd</sup> – Secretary  
John Bulloch of the 11<sup>th</sup>  
Ed Harbison of the 15<sup>th</sup>  
Jack Murphy of the 27<sup>th</sup>  
Chip Rogers of the 21<sup>st</sup>  
Nancy Schaefer of the 50<sup>th</sup>  
David Shafer of the 48<sup>th</sup>  
Steve Thompson of the 33<sup>rd</sup>

## Economic Development

**Chip Pearson** of the 51<sup>st</sup> – Chairman  
**Chip Rogers** of the 21<sup>st</sup> – Vice Chairman  
**Joseph Carter** of the 13<sup>th</sup> – Secretary  
Robert Brown of the 26<sup>th</sup>  
Ronnie Chance of the 16<sup>th</sup>  
George Hooks of the 14<sup>th</sup>  
Jeff Mullis of the 53<sup>rd</sup>  
Jack Murphy of the 27<sup>th</sup>  
Nancy Schaefer of the 50<sup>th</sup>  
Ed Tarver of the 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Curt Thompson of the 5<sup>th</sup>  
Jim Whitehead Sr. of the 24<sup>th</sup>

## Education and Youth

**Dan Weber** of the 40<sup>th</sup> – Chairman  
**Joseph Carter** of the 13<sup>th</sup> – Vice Chair  
**Don Thomas** of the 54<sup>th</sup> – Secretary  
Don Balfour of the 9<sup>th</sup>  
John Douglas of the 17<sup>th</sup>  
Vincent Fort of the 39<sup>th</sup>  
Dan Moody of the 56<sup>th</sup>  
Ronald B. Ramsey Sr. of the 43<sup>rd</sup>  
Horacena Tate of the 38<sup>th</sup>  
Regina D. Thomas of the 2<sup>nd</sup>

## Ethics

**Renee Unterman** of the 45<sup>th</sup> – Chairman  
**George Hooks** of the 14<sup>th</sup> – Vice Chair  
**Nancy Schaefer** of the 50<sup>th</sup> – Secretary  
Gloria S. Butler of the 55<sup>th</sup>  
Bill Hamrick of the 30<sup>th</sup>  
Jack Hill of the 4<sup>th</sup>  
Eric Johnson of the 1<sup>st</sup>  
Michael Meyer von Bremen of the 12<sup>th</sup>  
Jack Murphy of the 27<sup>th</sup>  
Kasim Reed of the 35<sup>th</sup>  
Doug Stoner of the 6<sup>th</sup>  
Don Thomas of the 54<sup>th</sup>

## Finance

**Chip Rogers** of the 21<sup>st</sup> – Chairman  
**Tommie Williams** of the 19<sup>th</sup> – V. Chair  
**Ronnie Chance** of the 16<sup>th</sup> – Secretary  
Greg Goggins of the 7<sup>th</sup>  
Tim Golden of the 8<sup>th</sup>  
Bill Heath of the 31<sup>st</sup>  
Eric Johnson of the 1<sup>st</sup>  
Emanuel Jones of the 10<sup>th</sup>  
Mitch Seabaugh of the 28<sup>th</sup>  
David Shafer of the 48<sup>th</sup>  
Steve Thompson of the 33<sup>rd</sup>



### *Government Oversight*

**Ronnie Chance** of the 16<sup>th</sup> – Chairman  
**Joseph Carter** of the 13<sup>th</sup> – Vice Chair  
**Steve Henson** of the 41<sup>st</sup> – Secretary  
Greg Goggans of the 7<sup>th</sup>  
Tim Golden of the 8<sup>th</sup>  
Johnny Grant of the 25<sup>th</sup>  
Seth Harp of the 29<sup>th</sup>  
Bill Heath of the 31<sup>st</sup>  
Jeff Mullis of 53<sup>rd</sup>  
Ed Tarver of the 22<sup>nd</sup>

### *Health and Human Services*

**Don Thomas** of the 54<sup>th</sup> – Chairman  
**Renee Unterman** of the 45<sup>th</sup> – Vice Chair  
**Greg Goggans** of the 7<sup>th</sup> – Secretary  
David Adelman of the 42<sup>nd</sup>  
Don Balfour of the 9<sup>th</sup>  
Gloria S. Butler of the 55<sup>th</sup>  
Johnny Grant of the 25<sup>th</sup>  
Lee Hawkins of the 49<sup>th</sup>  
Steve Henson of the 41<sup>st</sup>  
Judson Hill of the 32<sup>nd</sup>  
Preston W. Smith of the 52<sup>nd</sup>  
Horacena Tate of the 38<sup>th</sup>  
John J. Wiles of the 37<sup>th</sup>

### *Higher Education*

**Seth Harp** of the 29<sup>th</sup> – Chairman  
**Bill Cowsert** of the 46<sup>th</sup> – Vice Chairman  
**Cecil Staton** of the 18<sup>th</sup> – Secretary  
Ronnie Chance of the 16<sup>th</sup>  
Gail Davenport of the 44<sup>th</sup>  
Tim Golden of the 8<sup>th</sup>  
Nan Orrock of the 36<sup>th</sup>  
Curt Thompson of the 5<sup>th</sup>  
John J. Wiles of the 37<sup>th</sup>

### *Insurance and Labor*

**Ralph Hudgens** of the 47<sup>th</sup> – Chairman  
**David Shafer** of the 48<sup>th</sup> – Vice Chairman  
**Dan Moody** of the 56<sup>th</sup> – Secretary  
Robert Brown of the 26<sup>th</sup>  
Jeff Chapman of the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Tim Golden of the 8<sup>th</sup>  
Ed Harbison of the 15<sup>th</sup>  
Ronald B. Ramsey Sr. of the 43<sup>rd</sup>  
Chip Rogers of the 21<sup>st</sup>

### *Interstate Cooperation*

**Ed Harbison** of the 15<sup>th</sup> – Chairman  
**Nan Orrock** of the 36<sup>th</sup> – Vice Chairman  
**Emanuel Jones** of the 10<sup>th</sup> - Secretary  
Gail Davenport of the 44<sup>th</sup>  
J.B. Powell of the 23<sup>rd</sup>

### *Judiciary*

**Preston Smith** of the 52<sup>nd</sup> – Chairman  
**Seth Harp** of the 29<sup>th</sup> – Vice Chairman  
**Bill Hamrick** of the 30<sup>th</sup> – Secretary  
David Adelman of the 42<sup>nd</sup>  
Robert Brown of the 26<sup>th</sup>  
Joseph Carter of the 13<sup>th</sup>  
Bill Cowsert of the 46<sup>th</sup>  
Vincent Fort of the 39<sup>th</sup>  
Judson Hill of the 32<sup>nd</sup>  
Michael Meyer von Bremen of the 12<sup>th</sup>  
Kasim Reed of the 35<sup>th</sup> – Ex- Officio  
John J. Wiles of the 37<sup>th</sup>

### *Natural Resources & Environment*

**Ross Tolleson** of the 20<sup>th</sup> – Chairman  
**John Bulloch** of the 11<sup>th</sup> – Vice Chairman  
**Ralph T. Hudgens** of the 47<sup>th</sup> – Secretary  
Jeff Chapman of the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Lee Hawkins of the 49<sup>th</sup>  
Steve Henson of the 41<sup>st</sup>  
Jack Hill of the 4<sup>th</sup>  
George Hooks of the 14<sup>th</sup>  
Michael Meyer von Bremen of the 12<sup>th</sup>  
J. B. Powell of the 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Dan Weber of the 40<sup>th</sup>  
Jim Whitehead Sr. of the 24<sup>th</sup>

### *Public Safety and Homeland Security*

**Jim Whitehead** of the 24<sup>th</sup> – Chairman  
**Jeff Mullis** of the 53<sup>rd</sup> – Vice Chairman  
**Jeff Chapman** of the 3<sup>rd</sup> – Secretary  
Gloria S. Butler of the 55<sup>th</sup>  
Joseph Carter of the 13<sup>th</sup>  
Gail Davenport of the 44<sup>th</sup>  
Emanuel Jones of the 10<sup>th</sup>  
Valencia Seay of the 34<sup>th</sup>

### *Reappointment and Redistricting*

**Judson Hill** of the 32<sup>nd</sup> – Chairman  
**Lee Hawkins** of the 49<sup>th</sup> – Vice Chairman  
**Mitch Seabaugh** of the 28<sup>th</sup> – Secretary  
Robert Brown of the 26<sup>th</sup>  
Ronnie Chance of the 16<sup>th</sup>  
Bill Cowsert of the 46<sup>th</sup>  
Vincent Fort of the 39<sup>th</sup>  
Ed Harbison of the 15<sup>th</sup>  
Ralph T. Hudgens of the 47<sup>th</sup>  
Dan Moody of the 56<sup>th</sup>  
Chip Rogers of the 21<sup>st</sup>  
David Shafer of the 48<sup>th</sup>  
Preston W. Smith of the 52<sup>nd</sup>  
Regina D. Thomas of the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Tommie Williams of the 19<sup>th</sup>

### Regulated Industries and Utilities

**David Shafer** of the 48<sup>th</sup> – Chairman  
**Eric Johnson** of the 1<sup>st</sup> – Vice Chairman  
**Ed Harbison** of the 15<sup>th</sup> – Secretary  
Gloria S. Butler of the 55<sup>th</sup>  
Steve Henson of the 41<sup>st</sup>  
Jack Hill of the 4<sup>th</sup>  
Mitch Seabaugh of the 28<sup>th</sup>  
Doug Stoner of the 6<sup>th</sup>  
Regina D. Thomas of the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Ross Tolleson of the 20<sup>th</sup> - Ex-Officio  
Tommie Williams of the 19<sup>th</sup>

### Retirement

**Bill Heath** of the 31<sup>st</sup> – Chairman  
**David Shafer** of the 48<sup>th</sup> – Vice Chairman  
**Preston Smith** of the 52<sup>nd</sup> – Secretary  
Gail Davenport of the 44<sup>th</sup>  
Jack Murphy of the 27<sup>th</sup>  
Nancy Schaefer of the 50<sup>th</sup>  
Doug Stoner of the 6<sup>th</sup>  
Horacena Tate of the 38<sup>th</sup>

### Rules

**Don Balfour** of the 9<sup>th</sup> – Chairman  
**Bill Hamrick** of the 30<sup>th</sup> – Vice Chairman  
**Mitch Seabaugh** of the 28<sup>th</sup> – Secretary  
David Adelman of the 42<sup>nd</sup>  
Gloria S. Butler of the 55<sup>th</sup>  
Jack Hill of the 4<sup>th</sup>  
George Hooks of the 14<sup>th</sup>  
Eric Johnson of the 1<sup>st</sup>  
Dan Moody of the 56<sup>th</sup>  
Chip Pearson of the 51<sup>st</sup>  
Don Thomas of the 54<sup>th</sup>  
Ross Tolleson of the 20<sup>th</sup>  
Renee S. Unterman of the 45<sup>th</sup>  
Tommie Williams of the 19<sup>th</sup>

### Science and Technology

**Cecil Staton** of the 18<sup>th</sup> – Chairman  
**Bill Heath** of the 31<sup>st</sup> – Vice Chairman  
**John Douglas** of the 17<sup>th</sup> – Secretary  
Nan Orrock of the 36<sup>th</sup>  
J. B. Powell of the 23<sup>rd</sup>

### Special Judiciary

**Michael Meyer von Bremen** of the 12<sup>th</sup> – Chair  
**David Adelman** of the 42<sup>nd</sup> – Vice Chair  
**Judson Hill** of the 32<sup>nd</sup> – Secretary  
Bill Cowsert of the 46<sup>th</sup>  
Seth Harp of the 29<sup>th</sup>  
Ronald B. Ramsey Sr. of the 43<sup>rd</sup>  
Kasim Reed of the 35<sup>th</sup>  
Ed Tarver of the 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Dan Weber of the 40<sup>th</sup>

### State & Local Gov. Operations

**John Wiles** of the 37<sup>th</sup> – Chairman  
**Johnny Grant** of the 25<sup>th</sup> – Vice Chair  
**Dan Weber** of the 40<sup>th</sup> – Secretary  
Lee Hawkins of the 49<sup>th</sup>  
Emanuel Jones of the 10<sup>th</sup>  
Ronald B. Ramsey Sr. of the 43<sup>rd</sup>  
Kasim Reed of the 35<sup>th</sup>

### State Institutions and Property

**Johnny Grant** of the 25<sup>th</sup> – Chairman  
**Regina Thomas** of the 2<sup>nd</sup> – Vice Chair  
**Valencia Seay** of the 34<sup>th</sup> – Secretary  
Vincent Fort of the 39<sup>th</sup>  
J. B. Powell of the 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Doug Stoner of the 6<sup>th</sup>  
Curt Thompson of the 5<sup>th</sup>

### Transportation

**Jeff Mullis** of the 53<sup>rd</sup> – Chairman  
**Jim Whitehead** of the 24<sup>th</sup> – Vice Chair  
**Chip Pearson** of the 51<sup>st</sup> – Secretary  
Jeff Chapman of the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
John Douglas of the 17<sup>th</sup>  
Greg Goggans of the 7<sup>th</sup>  
Judson Hill of the 32<sup>nd</sup>  
Kasim Reed of the 35<sup>th</sup>  
Valencia Seay of the 34<sup>th</sup>  
Cecil Staton of the 18<sup>th</sup>  
Doug Stoner of the 6<sup>th</sup>  
Steve Thompson of the 33<sup>rd</sup>

### Urban Affairs

**TBA**

### Veterans and Military Affairs

**John Douglas** of the 17<sup>th</sup> – Chairman  
**Cecil Staton** of the 18<sup>th</sup> – Vice Chairman  
**Ross Tolleson** of the 20<sup>th</sup> – Secretary  
Robert Brown of the 26<sup>th</sup>  
Emanuel Jones of the 10<sup>th</sup>  
Curt Thompson of the 5<sup>th</sup>

# *In Committee Action...*

## **Agriculture and Consumer Affairs**

The Senate Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee did not meet this week.

## **Appropriations**

The Senate Appropriations Committee did not meet this week.

## **Banking and Financial Institutions**

The Senate Banking and Financial Institutions Committee did not meet this week.

## **Economic Development**

The Senate Economic Development Committee did not meet this week.

## **Education and Youth**

The Senate Education and Youth Committee did not meet this week.

## **Ethics**

The Senate Ethics Committee did not meet this week.

## **Finance**

The Senate Finance Committee did not meet this week.

## **Health and Human Services**

The Senate Health and Human Services Committee did not meet this week.

## **Higher Education**

The Senate Higher Education Committee did not meet this week.

## **Insurance and Labor**

The Senate Insurance and Labor Committee did not meet this week.

## **Interstate Cooperation**

The Senate Interstate Cooperation Committee did not meet this week.

## **Judiciary**

On Tuesday, January 9, a joint meeting of the Senate and House Judiciary Committees was hosted by the State Bar of Georgia. The meeting included presentations from the Georgia Public Defender Standards Council and the State Bar of Georgia's Commission on Judicial Service. Director of the Georgia Public Defender Standards Council **Michael Means** gave an update on the indigent defense system in Georgia. He said funds appropriated by the legislature for the council are being used appropriately, and the system is running according the standards set by the legislature. The Council is looking for assistance from the Committees in several areas, including funding for the hiring of juvenile defenders in the juvenile division and additional public defenders whenever a new judgeship is created. Director **Means** also addressed the need for clarification in legislation regarding the authority of the standards council over circuit defenders. Chairman of the Commission on Judicial Service **Larry Walker** then testified in favor of legislation that proposes an increase in judicial salaries, the creation of a state commission setting judicial salaries and a travel allowance for appellate judges living outside the metro Atlanta area.

## **Natural Resources and Environment**

The Senate Natural Resources and Environment Committee did not meet this week.

## **Public Safety and Homeland Security**

The Senate Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee did not meet this week.

## **Reapportionment and Redistricting**

The Senate Reapportionment and Redistricting Committee did not meet this week.

## **Regulated Industries and Utilities**

The Senate Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee did not meet this week.

## **Retirement**

The Senate Retirement Committee did not meet this week.

## **Rules**

The Senate Rules Committee did not meet this week.

## **Science and Technology**

The Senate Science and Technology Committee did not meet this week.

## **Special Judiciary**

The Senate Special Judiciary Committee did not meet this week.

## **State and Local Governmental Operations**

The State and Local Governmental Operations Committee did not meet this week.

## **State Institutions and Property**

The Senate State Institutions and Property Committee did not meet this week.

## **Transportation**

The Senate Transportation Committee did not meet this week.

## **Veterans and Military Affairs**

The Senate Veterans and Military Affairs Committee did not meet this week.

# *Georgia State Senate First Readers*

(Monday, January 8 – Wednesday January 10, 2007)

## *Senate Resolutions*

- SR 1**      **Senate Convened; notify House of Representatives**  
Sens. **Eric Johnson** (1<sup>st</sup>); **Tommie Williams** (19<sup>th</sup>) and  
**Robert Brown** (26<sup>th</sup>)  
*Read and adopted – 01/08/07*
- SR 2**      **General Assembly Convened; Notify Governor**  
Sens. **Eric Johnson** (1<sup>st</sup>); **Tommie Williams** (19<sup>th</sup>) and  
**Robert Brown** (26<sup>th</sup>)  
*Read and adopted – 01/01/07*
- SR 3**      **Senate; Adopt Rules**  
Sens. **Eric Johnson** (1<sup>st</sup>); **Tommie Williams** (19<sup>th</sup>) and  
**Robert Brown** (26<sup>th</sup>)  
*Read and adopted – 01/08/07*
- SR 6**      **State Children's Health Insurance Plan; urge U.S. Congress provide funding**  
Sens. **Greg Goggans** (7<sup>th</sup>); **Regina Thomas** (2<sup>nd</sup>); **Tommie Williams** (19<sup>th</sup>);  
**Eric Johnson** (1<sup>st</sup>); **Jack Hill** (4<sup>th</sup>) and **Lee Hawkins** (49<sup>th</sup>)  
*Read and adopted – 01/10/07*
- SR 8**      **Senate Officials; Employees and Committees**  
Sens. **Eric Johnson** (1<sup>st</sup>); **Tommie Williams** (19<sup>th</sup>) and  
**Robert Brown** (26<sup>th</sup>)  
*Read and adopted – 01/08/07*
- SR 9**      **Joint Session; inauguration of Governor and Lieutenant Governor**  
Sens. **Eric Johnson** (1<sup>st</sup>); **Tommie Williams** (19<sup>th</sup>) and  
**Robert Brown** (26<sup>th</sup>)  
*Read and adopted – 01/08/07*
- SR 10**      **Tidwell, Josh; commend**  
Sen. **Mitch Seabaugh** (28<sup>th</sup>)  
*Read and adopted – 01/09/07*
- SR 11**      **Doyle, Mr. Allen Michael; recognize**  
Sen. **Mitch Seabaugh** (28<sup>th</sup>)  
*Read and adopted – 01/09/07*
- SR 12**      **Latimer, Annie Lee Boggs; commend**  
Sen. **David Shafer** (48<sup>th</sup>)  
*Read and adopted – 01/09/07*
- SR 13**      **Pryor, Olivia Austin; celebrate birth**  
Sen. **David Shafer** (48<sup>th</sup>)  
*Read and adopted – 01/09/07*
- SR 14**      **Pope, Elizabeth Karen; celebrate birth**  
Sen. **David Shafer** (48<sup>th</sup>)  
*Read and adopted – 01/09/07*
- SR 15**      **McMullan, William Michael; celebrate birth**  
Sen. **David Shafer** (48<sup>th</sup>)  
*Read and adopted – 01/09/07*

- SR 16**      **McMullan, Madeline Marshall; celebrate birth**  
 Sen. **David Shafer** (48<sup>th</sup>)  
*Read and adopted – 01/09/07*
- SR 17**      **Highsmith, Elizabeth Campbell; celebrate birth**  
 Sen. **David Shafer** (48<sup>th</sup>)  
*Read and adopted – 01/09/07*
- SR 18**      **Hurst, Jackson Thomas; celebrate birth**  
 Sen. **David Shafer** (48<sup>th</sup>)  
*Read and adopted – 01/09/07*
- SR 19**      **Herschend, Henry Butler; celebrate birth**  
 Sen. **David Shafer** (48<sup>th</sup>)  
*Read and adopted – 01/09/07*
- SR 20**      **Taxation; provide limitations on state government tax and expenditures**  
 Sens. **Chip Rogers** (21<sup>st</sup>); **Mitch Seabaugh** (28<sup>th</sup>); **Chip Pearson** (51<sup>st</sup>);  
**John Wiles** (37<sup>th</sup>); **Judson Hill** (32<sup>nd</sup>) and **Bill Heath** (31<sup>st</sup>)  
*Finance Committee – 01/09/07*
- SR 21**      **Taxation; limitations on grants of tax power**  
 Sens. **Judson Hill** (32<sup>nd</sup>); **Chip Rogers** (21<sup>st</sup>); **Eric Johnson** (1<sup>st</sup>);  
**John Wiles** (37<sup>th</sup>); **Mitch Seabaugh** (28<sup>th</sup>) and **Chip Pearson** (51<sup>st</sup>)  
*Finance Committee – 01/10/07*
- SR 22**      **Hospital Health Care Standards Commission; create**  
 Sens. **Judson Hill** (32<sup>nd</sup>) and **Don Thomas** (54<sup>th</sup>)  
*Health and Human Services Committee – 01/10/07*
- SR 25**      **State Properties Commission; authorizing and empowering**  
 Sens. **Ed Tarver** (22<sup>nd</sup>) and **J.B. Powell** (23<sup>rd</sup>)  
*State Institutions and Properties Committee – 01/10/07*
- SR 26**      **State Properties Commission; authorizing and empowering**  
 Sens. **Ed Tarver** (22<sup>nd</sup>) and **J.B. Powell** (23<sup>rd</sup>)  
*State Institutions and Properties Committee – 01/10/07*

### *Senate Bills:*

- SB 3**      **Hunting; provide for veterans' lifetime sportsman's license; fees**  
 Sens. **John Douglas** (17<sup>th</sup>); **Tommie Williams** (19<sup>th</sup>); **Jack Hill** (4<sup>th</sup>);  
**Cecil Staton** (18<sup>th</sup>); **Lee Hawkins** (49<sup>th</sup>) and **Ronnie Chance** (16<sup>th</sup>)  
*Natural Resources and the Environment Committee – 01/10/07*
- SB 8**      **Property Tax Assessments; appeals; payment of interest; provisions**  
 Sens. **Eric Johnson** (1<sup>st</sup>) and **Chip Rogers** (21<sup>st</sup>)  
*Finance Committee – 01/10/07*
- SB 10**      **Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Act**  
 Sens. **Eric Johnson** (1<sup>st</sup>); **Chip Rogers** (21<sup>st</sup>); **Dan Weber** (40<sup>th</sup>);  
**Nancy Schaefer** (50<sup>th</sup>) and **Judson Hill** (32<sup>nd</sup>)  
*Education and Youth Committee – 01/10/07*
- SB 11**      **Superior/State Court Judges; military duty; eligible for reelection**  
 Sens. **David Shafer** (48<sup>th</sup>); **John Douglas** (17<sup>th</sup>); **Seth Harp** (29<sup>th</sup>);  
**John Wiles** (37<sup>th</sup>) and **Kasim Reed** (35<sup>th</sup>)  
*Special Judiciary Committee – 01/10/07*

- SB 12**      **Budget Act; provide periodic application of zero-base budgeting**  
Sens. **David Shafer** (48<sup>th</sup>); **Chip Rogers** (21<sup>st</sup>); **Jack Hill** (4<sup>th</sup>); **Greg Goggans** (7<sup>th</sup>) and **Dan Moody** (56<sup>th</sup>)  
*Appropriations Committee – 01/10/07*
- SB 14**      **Superior Court Clerks; personal property filing fees; sunset dates**  
Sens. **Chip Rogers** (21<sup>st</sup>); **Jack Murphy** (27<sup>th</sup>); **Cecil Staton** (18<sup>th</sup>) and **John Douglas** (17<sup>th</sup>)  
*Judiciary Committee – 01/10/07*
- SB 15**      **Drivers' Licenses; suspended; change certain provisions**  
Sens. **John Wiles** (37<sup>th</sup>); **Chip Rogers** (21<sup>st</sup>) and **Jeff Mullis** (53<sup>rd</sup>)  
*Judiciary Committee – 01/09/07*
- SB 16**      **Animal Fighting Act; change certain provisions**  
Sens. **Chip Rogers** (21<sup>st</sup>); **Chip Pearson** (51<sup>st</sup>); **Greg Goggans** (7<sup>th</sup>); **Bill Heath** (31<sup>st</sup>) and **Joseph Carter** (13<sup>th</sup>)  
*Judiciary Committee – 01/10/07*
- SB 17**      **Optometrists; authorize to prescribe oral/topical pharmaceutical**  
Sen. **Seth Harp** (29<sup>th</sup>); **Renee Unterman** (45<sup>th</sup>); **George Hooks** (14<sup>th</sup>); **Jeff Mullis** (53<sup>rd</sup>) and **Ed Harbison** (15<sup>th</sup>)  
*Health and Human Services Committee – 01/09/07*
- SB 18**      **Court-Connected Alternative Dispute Resolution; add municipal courts**  
Sens. **Seth Harp** (29<sup>th</sup>) and **Ed Harbison** (15<sup>th</sup>)  
*Special Judiciary Committee – 01/09/07*
- SB 19**      **Transportation; Department of; pay costs of removal; certain utility facilities**  
Sens. **Jim Whitehead** (24<sup>th</sup>); **Tommie Williams** (19<sup>th</sup>); **Greg Goggans** (7<sup>th</sup>); **Ronnie Chance** (16<sup>th</sup>) and **Jack Hill** (4<sup>th</sup>)  
*Transportation Committee – 01/09/07*
- SB 20**      **Sexual Offenses; disabled person incapable of granting consent; unlawful**  
Sens. **Judson Hill** (32<sup>nd</sup>) and **Steve Thompson** (33<sup>rd</sup>)  
*Judiciary Committee – 01/10/07*
- SB 21**      **Crimes; murder against peace officer, corrections; official duties; punishment**  
Sens. **John Douglas** (17<sup>th</sup>); **Jim Whitehead** (24<sup>th</sup>); **Jack Murphy** (27<sup>th</sup>); **Greg Goggans** (7<sup>th</sup>) and **Cecil Staton** (18<sup>th</sup>)  
*Judiciary Committee – 01/10/07*



# *Senate Press Office Staff*

*Merri M. Brantley*

Director

*Jeremy Frick*

Deputy Director

*Chris Bailey*

Communications Specialist

*Kallarin Richards*

Communications Specialist

*Lacey McLaughlin*

Media Liaison

*Andrea DeLeo*

Session Aide

*Ravae Graham*

Session Aide

*Keith Laing*

Session Aide

*John T. Smith*

Session Aide



*Senate Press Office*

201 Paul D. Coverdell Legislative Office Building  
18 Capitol Square  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334  
404.656.0028 or outside the Atlanta area 800.282.5803

*This Week*  
*January 12, 2007*  
*Page 16 of 16*